

In the Claims

Please amend claims 9 and 13 as follows.

A1
9. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the network span includes both a transparent multiplexer and a transparent demultiplexer at each end, wherein a supercarrier signal can be transported bi-directionally.

A2
13. (Amended) The network span as claimed in claim 12, wherein the network span includes both a transparent multiplexer and a transparent demultiplexer at each end, wherein a supercarrier signal can be transported bi-directionally.

In the Specification

Please amend page 10, lines 5 – 14 as follows:

A3
Figure 3 shows in more detail the network span 10. An STM-64 Add/Drop multiplexer (ADM, 2, 3) is provided at either end of the network span 10. A short length of STM-64 connection (10a, 10b) between the IMUX (15, 16) and the ADM (2, 3) is illustrated for clarity only and may not be present in a practical system. The IMUX 15 transparently demultiplexes the STM-64 signal from the ADM 2 into four STM-16 signals passes each signal along an STM-16 connection (11 to 14). The IMUX 16 re-multiplexes the four STM-16 signals into an STM-64 signal which is passed along to the ADM 3. Since traffic passes in both directions around the network, the same happens in reverse (i.e. ADM 3 to ADM 2).

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Please delete page 13, numbered line 27.